

Message Text

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11

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 SAM-01 SSO-00 /053 W

----- 035143

R 300954Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8772

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 9159

PLEASE PASS TO WHITE HOUSE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IR, US

SUBJ: ARTICLE IN IRAN FREE PRESS

1. FOREIGN MINISTER KHALATBARI SUMMONED ME WEDNESDAY MORNING FOR PURPOSE OF DISCUSSING ARTICLE IN AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 1974 EDITION OF IRAN FREE PRESS WITH HEADLINE TO EFFECT THAT "IRAN DEMANDS REMOVAL OF HELMS AS AMBASSADOR TO IRAN". AFTER ACIDLY COMMENTING THAT HE DID NOT KNOW BY WHAT RIGHT THE IRAN FREE PRESS SPOKE FOR THE GOVERNMENT OF IRAN, KHALATBARI POINTED TO THE REPRODUCTION ON THE SAME PAGE OF A LETTER FROM THE WHITE HOUSE TO THE IRAN FREE PRESS DATED OCTOBER 1, 1974 AND SIGNED BY MR FALKIEWICZ, DEPUTY PRESS SECRETARY TO THE PRESIDENT. THE FOREIGN MINISTER COMMENTED THAT HE FELT IT WAS MOST UNFORTUNATE THAT AN OFFICIAL AT THE WHITE HOUSE SHOULD WRITE A LETTER WHICH IMPLIED RECOGNITION OF THE IRAN FREE PRESS' CHARGES BY STATING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE WOULD "STUDY THE SUBSTANCE OF YOUR LETTER". AFTER SOME DISCUSSION, KHALATBARI WAS PREPARED TO AGREE THAT MR FALKIEWICZ PROBABLY DID NOT KNOW THE BACKGROUND OF THE IRAN FREE PRESS AND THAT THE LETTER WAS SIMPLY A PRO FORMA ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE OPEN LETTER. IN ANY EVENT, THIS IS THE BURDEN OF MY DISCUSSION WITH THE FOREIGN MINISTER ALTHOUGH HE REPEATED THE POINTS ABOVE IN A VARIETY OF WAYS. IT WAS CLEAR THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY THE SHAH TO MAKE THESE COMMENTS, AND I WAS OBLIGED TO AGREE THAT I WOULD PASS THEM

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TO WASHINGTON.

2. AS THE DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, NASSER AF SHAH (ALSO KNOWN AS NASSER AF SHAR GHOTLI) IS THE EDITOR AND PUBLISHER OF THE IRAN FREE PRESS, WHICH IS A VIRULENT ANTI-SHAH MONTHLY NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED IN WASHINGTON. AF SHAR IS UNDER SENTENCE IN IRAN TO SERVE 22 TERMS OF IMPRISONMENT OF THREE YEARS ON 22 COUNTS OF EMBEZZLEMENT. THE SENTENCE HAS NEVER BEEN CARRIED OUT, BECAUSE AF SHAR FLED IRAN BEFORE IT COULD BE EXECUTED. THE GOI HAS REPEATEDLY SOUGHT AF SHAR'S EXTRADITION FROM THE UNITED STATES, BUT HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF AN EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND IRAN.

3. THE ST LOUIS POST DISPATCH IN AN EDITORIAL ON OCTOBER 22, 1974, APPEARS TO HAVE PICKED UP THE IRAN FREE PRESS MATERIAL SINCE IT STARTS OFF ITS EDITORIAL WITH THE SENTENCE: "THE SHAH OF IRAN IS REPORTED TO BE EMBARRASSED BY THE PRESENCE OF AMBASSADOR RICHARD M HELMS IN TEHRAN AND MAY ASK THE WHITE HOUSE FOR A REPLACEMENT."
HELMS

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, REMOVAL FROM OFFICE, AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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From: TEHRAN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Review Date: 20 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <20 AUG 2002 by izenbei0>; APPROVED <10 MAR 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

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30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
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Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005